

**Topic:** Community pharmacy drug errors

**Concepts:** Look-alike drug names and preventing drug errors in community pharmacy

**Case example:** Isaac Levi



**Case synopsis:** Isaac comes to the Community Pharmacy today to pick up his new prescription to help his symptoms. The prescription electronically received in the Lakeview Pharmacy was for aricept 40mg, which is confusing to the pharmacist because 40mg is an unusual dose for this drug, and 38 is an unusual age for a patient to receive this drug. Is this an error? This possible drug error needs to be addressed before Isaac's prescription is filled and dispensed.

**Pre-class homework:** Have students come to class with the following information prepared.

1. Read the article in the case materials called *Preventing drug errors in community pharmacy*

**In class discussion:** Divide students into small discussion groups and have them answer the following questions for a discussion of Isaac Levi's case.

1. **Identifying with the patient:** Have you or someone you've known experienced a drug error or near error in the community setting? What happened?
2. **Understanding the situation:** What do you know about electronic prescription submission to the pharmacy? How does it work and what safeguards are in place?
3. **Knowing the facts:** What is Aricept prescribed for? What is the recommended dose of this drug?
4. **Exploring the options:** What should the community pharmacist do if he or she has questions regarding a prescription?
5. **Making an informed decision:** Determine what you will do with the prescription received for Isaac Levi.

**Evaluation method(s):** A variety of different evaluation methods are applicable to this in-class activity. Choose from any of the following.

1. Presentations or discussion of the in class discussion questions after the small groups meet.
2. Pre- or Post-Quiz on the drugs, resources, clinical situation, or community pharmacy practice.
3. Practice safety reflection paper on the risks and prevention of drug errors in community pharmacy.
4. Simple credit for participation, with or without a make-up assignment. Make-up assignment could be to answer the five discussion questions in writing.